

Masterminds of the Hidden Debt Scandal Reject President Filipe Nyusi's Pardon

● Over the weekend, everything was set for the President of the Republic, Filipe Nyusi, to grant a pardon to the key figures involved in the hidden debt scandal. However, the defendants surprised everyone by rejecting the presidential pardon, arguing that they still have a pending appeal in the Supreme Court, where they are contesting their convictions.



Among the masterminds who refused the pardon are:

- Ndambi Guebuza, son of former President Armando Guebuza.
- Gregório Leão, former Director-General of the State Intelligence and Security Service (SISE).
- António Carlos do Rosário, former

Director of Economic Intelligence at SISE and Chairman of the Board of the companies involved.

- Teófilo Nhangumele and Bruno Tandane, associates of Ndambi Guebuza.
- Inês Moiane, former Executive Secretary to Armando Guebuza.
- Renato Matusse, former Political Advi-

sor to Armando Guebuza.

The defendants argue that they do not agree with the judicial decision that convicted them and have therefore submitted an appeal. Technically, a pardon cannot be granted to someone who has filed an appeal against their sentence, as this would imply acceptance of the conviction.



Filipe Nyusi intended to grant the pardon to reduce his list of political adversaries at the end of his mandate. However, by refusing the pardon, the masterminds once again challenged the President, whom they themselves accuse of being a key player in the hidden debt scheme.

Pressure and Defiance

There was pressure from various quarters for the convicts to accept the pardon and withdraw their appeals in the Supreme Court. However, they stood firm and refused to accept the sentence. As a result, Decree No. 22/2024, dated December 23, was published in the Official Gazette without including the names of the masterminds of the hidden debts.

Motivations and Implications

The stance taken by the convicts makes it clear that Filipe Nyusi intended to grant the pardon to reduce his list of political adversaries at the end of his mandate. However, by refusing the pardon, the masterminds once again challenged the President, whom they themselves accuse of being a key player in the hidden debt scheme.

Conclusion

The decision to reject the pardon highlights a direct confrontation between the convicts and Filipe Nyusi. This episode not only exposes deep political divisions but also underscores the fragility of a system where justice and impunity remain central issues in national debates.

By refusing to accept the pardon, the masterminds reaffirm their position of judicial contestation, raising new questions about the integrity and transparency of the entire hidden debt process and its impact on the credibility of Mozambican institutions.



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